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Major Themes and Issues as Reflected in the Selected Young Adult Narratives of Ravinder Singh: A Critical Study

Introduction :

Ravinder Singh is an Indian author. Basically, he was an IT professional before turning to writing. His first book, *I Too Had a Love Story* (2008), is an autobiographical novel. This novel was also published in Kannada, entitled as *Nannadu Ondu Prema Kathe.* Ravinder is also a digital creator and entrepreneur. After publishing *I Too Had a Love Story*, Ravinder grows into more successful and richer personality. Ravinder Singh got nominated for the popular award category at the 2014 'Raymond Crossword Book Award' for the novel *Like It Happened Yesterday* (2013).He especially wrote about tragedies in his life. He is also an author of Indian young adult narratives. His major works include, *I Too Had a Love Story*, *Can Love Happen Twice?* (2011), *Your Dreams Are Mine Now* (2014), *Tell Me a Story* (2015), *Will You Still Love Me?* (2018).

Ravinder Singh's narratives are considered as young adult narratives (YA) because they frequently deal with the young adult narratives' themes like friendship, marriage, personal tragedy, sexuality, family conflict, emotion, care, and romantic relationships, among other topics. Young adult literature is actually a relatively recent phenomenon because people did not really begin to think of teenagers between the ages of twelve and eighteen as young adults until the twentieth century (Russell 58). Some people believe that S. E. Hinton's novel *The Outsiders* (1967) marked the true start of young adult literature. The fact that *The Outsiders* is a book about young adults and was written for young adults sets it apart from the books that people in this age range read before 1967. Previously

books with young adult characters were not really written for that age group. The 1970's was the decade for problem novels that dealt with real problems that young adults faced, such as drug abuse, divorce, poverty, etc.

The 1980's saw a boom in genre fiction, especially romance and horror. Then the 1990's brought about a rise in "middle school literature," which included "an expansion of the audience, which freed authors to tackle more serious subjects and to introduce more complex characters and considerations of ambiguity" (Cart 96). Thus, young adult narrative (YA) is literature created for readers between the ages of 12 and 18. In the United States, the 1960s saw the earliest frequent use of the term YA. The majority of adult fiction's genres are included in the YA category, which also includes books with themes like friendship, love, and gender identity. The distinction between young adult and adult literature is arbitrary, dependent on moral and political ideologies, and sometimes even meaningless. The selected young adult narratives of Ravinder Singh for research study are:

1. *I Too Had a Love Story* (2008)

2. *Can Love Happen Twice?* (2011)

3. *Your Dreams Are Mine Now* (2014)

4. *Tell Me a Story* (2015)

5. *Will You Still Love Me?* (2018)

Young adult narrative writer Ravinder Singh reveals several social issues, including true unconditional love, family conflicts, relationship problems, and the sentiment of warmth, in his books.

1) *I Too Had a Love Story*

I Too Had a Love Story is a tribute to Ravinder's girlfriend, who died before their engagement. This heartbreaking true life story has already touched a million hearts. This novel is romantic, emotional, and sincere in true sense. This bestselling novel is for anyone who believes in the magic of love. Not all love stories are meant to have a seamless ending. *I Too Had a Love Story* is one such immortal saga. It is the tender and heartfelt tale of Ravin and Khushi, two people who find each other on a matrimonial site and fall in love, until life puts their love to the ultimate test.

2) *Can Love Happen Twice?*

This highly anticipated novel by Ravinder Singh is an emotional roller coaster that bravely explores the highs and lows of love. Ravinder Singh and his three best friends are invited as guests to talk about Ravin's love story at a Radio Station in Chandigarh which used to host a very special romantic chat show on every Valentine's Day. But surprisingly, everyone except Ravin turns up. As the show goes live, there is only one question on every listener's mind, what has happened to Ravin?To answer this question, the three friends begin reading from a hard copy of Ravin's incomplete second book, *Can Love Happen Twice?* to which the entire city listens breathlessly. Unable to believe the revelations that follow.

3) *Your Dreams Are Mine Now*

Against the backdrop of dominant campus politics, *Your Dreams Are Mine Now* is an innocent love story that will tug at your heart strings. The lovers, Rupali and Arjun, are complete opposites. Rupali is a small town girl who takes admission at Delhi University. An idealist, Studies are her first priority. Arjun is a Delhi guy. He is seriously involved into youth politics at Delhi University. He fights to make

his way. Student union elections are his first priority. But then opposites attract as well. When a scandal on campus brings Arjun and Rupali together, they begin to walk the same path. And somewhere along the line, they fall in love. But their fight against evil comes at a heavy price, proving to be the ultimate test of their lives.

4) *Tell Me A Story*

Tell Me A Story is a collection of heartening stories about events and incidents that have affected or changed the lives of the writer in ways that they cannot forget. Happy or sad, inspiring or shocking, these are stories of moments that have left a permanent mark on the characters' lives. Stories that they would love to share. *Tell Me A Story* is about the moments that make life worth living.

5) *Will You Still Love Me?*

Will You Still Love Me? is deeply moving and disturbingly close to reality and love at their worst and best. Lavanya Gogoi is from the scenic hills of Shillong, while Rajveer Saini belongs to the Shahi city of Patiala. Worlds apart from one another, the two land up next to each other on a flight from Mumbai to Chandigarh. It is love at first sight, at least for one of them. It is going to take more than a plane ride and when love does finally happen, they have more obstacles to overcome. Rajveer has to stand against his own if he and Lavanya are to be together. However, life has other plans things go horribly wrong, and Rajveer now has to fight a different battle-one in which he is the devil as well as the deliverer. His love for Lavanya will be put to the ultimate test.

Objective :

- To do critical study of major themes in the selected narratives of Ravinder Singh.
- To critically analyze major themes and aspects of the young adult narratives in the selected narratives of Ravinder Singh.
- To discuss issues in the selected young adult narratives of Ravinder Singh.
- To focus on characteristics of young adult narratives written by Ravinder Singh.
- To discover the interpersonal relationships and psychological changes due to tragedy reflected in Ravinder Singh's narratives.
- To point out social issues, social ethics and political issues presented by Ravinder Singh.

Scope and Limitation :

- The proposed research work will provide an opportunity to study young adult narratives.
- The research will shed light on the major themes of young adult fiction presented in the selected narratives of Ravinder Singh.
- It is a significant study of a young, successful author who is not much explored.
- Secondary sources like critical articles and reviews are not that much available as the topic is less discussed.

Review of Literature :

This research study has been planned to discover the characteristics and major thematic aspects of the selected young adult narratives written by Ravinder Singh. The research study will also try to address issues reflected in the selected

narratives of the proposed study. This research study will center around the themes of young adult narratives like boundless and unconditional love, appreciation of love, feelings, sentiments of love, disappointment, the methodology of love, the mental condition of humans in love, and the loss of someone who is very close to your heart and also will point out the social issues in different cultures and mental views in diverse family cultures, etc.

Hypothesis :

- The narratives written by Ravinder Singh have significant themes and major characteristics related to young adult narratives.
- Narratives of Ravinder Singh are adopted for film or television as they are more realistic and loved by young people.
- Young adult narrative has a certain demographic view and maturity in genres such as fantasy, mystery, tragedy, and science fiction.
- It can be enjoyable to read the writer's intention to write these narratives to attract teen and all-age readers.
- Young adult narratives focus not only on romance but also on social issues, corruption, social ethics, family conflicts, cultural differences, and the mental views of different cultural people, etc.

Research Methodology :

The study will use primary as well as secondary sources for data collection. The researcher will use analytical and descriptive methods to search for the facts. The primary sources will be original texts, and the secondary sources will be the books, research papers, reviews, research articles, and available material in libraries, and on the internet.

Data Collection :

For the qualitative research methodology data will be collected from the following sources.

1. Primary data collection will be from the original text by Ravinder Singh.

2. Secondary data will be based on research papers, research articles, previous research journals, reviews, etc.

3. The interviews of Ravinder Singh at the launch of his books will be a secondary source of data.

4. Web sources will be another source of secondary data.

Chapter Scheme :

The chapter scheme is as follows:

Chapter I : Introduction

The first chapter will focus on definition of narratives and young adult narratives. It will describe the history and origin of young adult narratives. It will try to find out major young adult narrative writers in Indian English literature. It will also discuss the characteristics and major themes which are found in young adult narratives.

Chapter II : Review of Literature

This chapter will cover the review of research journals, articles, reviews, and the selected M. Phil. and Ph.D. theses which are about young adult narratives written by Indian and foreign writers.

Chapter III : A Critical Analysis of Major Themes and Issues in the Selected Narratives of Ravinder Singh

In this chapter, the selected narratives by Ravinder Singh will be critically analyzed for discovering major themes and issues. This chapter will discuss major themes reflected in the selected works like mental conditions, psychological views, the serious sentiment of love, and genuine romance, etc. This chapter will also explain cultural differences, social ethics, and political issues, etc.

Chapter IV : The Critical Study of Ravinder Singh's Selected Narratives as Young Adult Narratives

In this chapter, the major themes and issues related to young adult narratives reflected in the selected works of Ravinder Singh will be discovered and critically studied. This chapter will explain the themes like true love, care, emotions, the shocking death of a beloved one, and unconditional love, etc. This chapter will also discuss love relationships, psychosocial developments, young adulthood, cultural clash, social issues and aspects like location, language, characterizations, family conflicts, etc.

Chapter V : Conclusion

This chapter will evaluate the accomplishments of the proposed hypotheses and objectives of the research study with the help of critical observations and interpretations of the selected narratives.

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